



# Maine Farmer.

EZEKIEL HOLMES, Editor.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

## Communication of the Volume.

With a new "figure head" and new type, with a grateful heart for the liberal encouragement of our friends, and with renewed hopes that we shall both deserve and receive a continuance of those favors, we commence Volume Twenty-nine of the *Maine Farmer*.

As heretofore, we shall devote our best energies to the welfare of our Agricultural interests and to the advocacy of the improvement of all the industrial powers of the community and the development of all those natural resources which God has so liberally bestowed upon us.

In doing this effectually, it will be in vain for us to strive alone. We need the help and cooperation of everybody. It is a subject in which every member of our community is interested—to which they should give a part of their good will and good labors. We need not only the "material aid" of good subscriptions by which the more gross machinery of the establishment can be sustained in its daily work, but we more especially need the substantial but intangible contributions of your minds, by which facts are unfolded and valuable experience can be communicated and perpetuated for guidance in the practical operations of future life. It was for this purpose the *Farmer* was commenced, and for this purpose it has continued thus far—a recipient of your communications one to another, and a medium by which you can all hold social converse, though widely separated and distant from each other. It is this peculiarity of the press which makes its chief value. It becomes the best organ of communication for our ideas, and a treasury in which to preserve the accumulated experiences of those who choose to make the deposit. By this means the past and the present become blended together and insure hope of strength and energy and enduring prosperity to the future. By this means we all become banded together like brothers of one great family, and all—the weak and the strong—the young and the aged, can effectually co-operate together, each according to his gift or his knowledge and the power within him. For these reasons we beg leave to urge the apostolic injunction upon you to "do good and communicate."

A double purpose is thus accomplished. You afford instruction and pleasure to others, and stimulate them to the same good work. In addition to this, inquiry and discussion is exerted in the community, and new facts are thereby elicited and rendered available to all.

Our publishers have not only incurred the expense of new type, but have also made arrangements for a variety of engravings for the purpose of illustration in order to render the text more clearly understood. In doing this they have been prompted not so much with a desire to embellish the paper as to render it more useful and more applicable to the wants of those who seek information through its columns.

**Patterson Devons in Maine.**

Little more than a year ago, we announced, what was to us a pleasing fact, that our friend John F. Anderson, of South Windham, in this State, had purchased of Mr. Patterson of Baltimore, a thorough-bred cow and heifer from his celebrated herd of Devons. The cow, on her arrival, did not manifest good health, and although she recovered somewhat, never fairly regained a full degree of vigor, and this fall past she died. Information of her death was bad news to us, for, although we had no sort of property interest in her, we did feel a lively social interest in the arrival of such good stock, and in their success in Maine. Somehow or other, we have a strong impression and belief, that the Patterson herd of Devons is the best one in the world, taking into consideration all the points and qualities which ought to make Devons valuable to the farmers of Maine. One important point, in our estimation, is, that they are better milkers than most Devons. The milking property has not been bred out of them to that degree that it has in many, if not all, of the English Devons. We go in for good milkers, and as the ancient Devons were good milkers, we feel a peculiar regard for the herd that has retained that characteristic most. Hence our interest in our friend Anderson's enterprise, and the regret we felt when we heard of the cow's death. It was really bad news to us.

But now comes the good news. We hear that Mr. Patterson, on being informed of the facts in the case, promptly and liberally offers to make her place good in the spring, by giving another cow from his herd. By this noble generosity, the improvement of Maine Devons goes far as Mr. F. F. F. is concerned, will still go on, and the public will be ultimately greatly benefited. Personally, we are an utter stranger to Mr. Patterson, but, although an outsider in this whole matter, we really feel grateful for his kind consideration toward Mr. Anderson; because we know that if life and health should be continued to him, his zeal, energy and good judgment in breeding will in time transplant many, if not all of the good qualities of the Patterson herd to our own State. "The liberal hand shall devolve liberal things, and by liberal things shall stand."

**The Brittany Cow.**

A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, writing from Philadelphia under date of Dec. 4th, says:

"An importation of a great agricultural winter will be made here by one of our wealthy farmers, in the spring. It is the Brittany cow, from France, a mere miniature creature, barely three feet in height, as docile as a cat, giving eight to ten quarts of rich milk daily, and consuming almost as little food as a goat. This breed has recently been introduced into England, where it has excited the utmost wonder and admiration even from experienced breeders. As described to me, every citizen who boasts a garden of moderate size will be able to be his own milkman after a Brittany cow on his grass-plot."

Dr. J. C. Wixson of Bangor, is the Member of the Board of Agriculture for Penobscot Co.

**A Hint or two on Stock Breeding.**

There are two extremes which should be avoided in the management of breeding stock, especially on the male side. Years ago, when we first owned any cattle, we obtained a fine young bull, and, feeling ambitious to have him look fat and sleek, we fed him high and had him used in the most careful manner. He was well supplied with provender and kept in a warm stable. He became fat and handsome to look at, but we soon found that he began to lack vigor and activity, and failed to accomplish what was desired of him. We then began to reduce him, and in time we got him too lean and weak to do his duty. He was an error on the other extreme. Another turn was taken in our management. A fair allowance of hay and provender was given him, and he was put into the yoke and made to do a good day's work with an ox by his side. He was thus brought up to a good working condition, and at some time thoroughly broke to labor. From that time we had no trouble with him. He was vigorous and active, and sure in his performances of every kind.

Since then, we avoid the extremes in breeding stock. We never keep an idle bull; they are always broke both to the single and double yoke. In the single yoke they are made to work alone, like a horse, either in the thills or in the tractors, and kept in fair working order. They are thus kept quiet and docile, and are worth double and triple your fat, sleek, lily bulls, in any point of view.

There is another advantage in this. When an animal is only in good working order, you can readily see all his good and his defective points, but when he is fat, many of his defective points are covered up and not readily detected. Never buy a fat animal to breed from. If you want an animal to slaughter, fat is what you are after, and no matter how fat it be; but for breeding, look for those in good working order, and keep them so. This rule holds good with us, in either young, or old, or even very fat bulls. We never break heifers or cows to work, because we always considered that a cow had enough to do to make milk, but we have no doubt that an early training of heifers to the yoke would have a good effect in rendering them gentle and docile through life; and this is an important consideration. By training them in this manner while young, they will seldom forget it, and many a barnyard cow be prettier when they come to give milk. Besides, they might be occasionally sent to some team, if circumstances should require an increase of force, a short time in any of the operations of the farm.

**Orchard Houses.**

We have recommended these structures, which seem to be well calculated for the culture of dwarf peach, pear and plum trees, or grape vines in pots, and the ripening of their fruit with greater certainty in our climate. They were first constructed and put into successful operation by Mr. Rivers of England. He published a pamphlet, describing his manner of building, and management of the fruit trees and vines in it. This treatise has been republished by Saxon & Co. of New York, and can be had of them for forty cents. The orchard house has been described as merely a glass-roofed shed. They are being built in many places in New England, and are found to be of much value to themselves or others. So let us all gird up our loins afresh to the work, and each do his duty with a clear mind, a stout heart and an approving conscience.

**South Norridgewock.**

**Economical Entomology—No. 8.**

The wintering or hibernation of insects is a most interesting subject of inquiry. We all know how the bears stow themselves away in the fall and do not emerge until the spring. The insects, however, are very fugacious, lasting only about eight days; but they do not lose their power, which may be said to be of six or seven different species, whose grubs infest the bark and wood of the Acacia.

The tree is planted in a situation that is favorable to its growth, it assumes an elegant tufted appearance, admitting the rays of light, which break playfully through its open branches.

Sometimes the tree is trained against a trellis so situated that it properly fence them off. At the age of twenty-two his son was desirous to settle in life, and wished the assistance of a teacher. He took a child for a shipmate, and sold the purchase to a planter for his son in Lancaster county. Three years after, he established his daughter in the same manner. In this way he provided a fortune for all his children.

William Cobbett, an English gentleman, author of several interesting works on Botany, Agriculture, &c., &c., who resided in the United States during the years 1793-1808, produced quite a subject of survival, with a view to agricultural, geological, and mineralogical information has been agitated, and undoubtedly these measures will be of infinite use.

The Acacia originally derived its name from the Botanist, who raised it from seed and introduced it into Europe. This was John Robin, eminent naturalist, and one of the professors of *Le Jardin des Plantes*. It was in the year 1600, and during the reign of Henry IV., that this service was rendered to Europe, and Linnaeus decided that the benefit should be commemorated by calling the tree *Robinia pseudo Acacia*. When first introduced into France, it was rapidly multiplied, for every tree was eager to have its ground around it, and, by keeping the seeds constantly cut to the height of bushes, they cause the roots to ramify to a great distance, and thus the banks are held firmly together, and effectually preserved from the destructive operation of the waters."

This same author, the Member of the Academie, who raised it from seed, introduced it into England, and one of the professors of *Le Jardin des Plantes*, Dr. Withers, of Halt, Norfolk, England.

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The Acacia

# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, December 20, 1860.

## NOTICE.

Agents for collecting and advertising are now in the State. Their services are necessary to insure the immediate payment of all outstanding dues by subscribers and advertisers. We are confident that our call for help will promptly respond to it.

## The People—Are they Faithful to their Duties?

More than eighty years ago the people of this country asserted their independence, and maintained it at an expense of much blood and treasure against a powerful and warlike nation. They suffered much, (how much we can never know,) and periled everything dear to them to gain their freedom and the blessings of a good government. After a seven years' war they succeeded. Their independence was recognized; and they then applied themselves to the formation of a government that should forever, as they fondly hoped, preserve and guard the freedom which they had struggled so long and so faithfully to secure. For this purpose they chose for their representatives and agents the ablest and best men among them. It has been justly said that the era of our Revolution was an age of great men. They had been schooled and disciplined in the midst of troubles and difficulties, and had been thus fitted and prepared for the great work they were to do.

These men met in convention. They were conservative men, and ardent patriots. Their patriotism was coextensive with their whole country; and they were animated by the single view to perpetuate forever the blessings of that liberty which had cost so much and which they so highly prized.

They soon found, however, that their difficulties were not all surmounted; and that although they had so far maintained their right to govern themselves, there were other difficulties to be met quite as dangerous as their foreign enemies, before they could secure that right and make it available for themselves and their posterity. The history of that memorable Convention shows that it was with the greatest difficulty and by dint of the determined perseverance of able men, aided by a spirit of self-sacrifice and concession on the part of all, most earnestly invoked, that they finally succeeded in establishing a form of government that was ultimately ratified and adopted by the people of all the States.

The government under that Constitution went into operation, and has continued to the present time. Under its beneficent influence blessings have been showered upon our country on every hand, and we have been prospered and increased in a manner hitherto unknown in the history of nations. In numbers, in wealth generally shared, in the general happiness of our people, no nation in the world can show an equal increase in a time so short. For how much of all this we are indebted to our admirable system of government and to good laws, let the condition of the other nations of America, both North and South, make answer. Possessing climate and soil not inferior to ours, they are far behind us in all the elements of a great and prosperous nation. Divided into factions, they are not unfrequently involved in bloody revolutions, and a prey to anarchy.

These things are known to all; and yet with this knowledge, and knowing full well that like causes produce like results everywhere, with all the glorious memories of the past, the glorious realization of the present and the hopes of the future, alike imploring us to forbear, to pause, to reflect, before we take any step that may be injurious to ourselves, there were other difficulties to be met quite as dangerous as their foreign enemies, before they could secure that right and make it available for themselves and their posterity. The history of that memorable Convention shows that it was with the greatest difficulty and by dint of the determined perseverance of able men, aided by a spirit of self-sacrifice and concession on the part of all, most earnestly invoked, that they finally succeeded in establishing a form of government that was ultimately ratified and adopted by the people of all the States.

This is illustrated by the following table of the electoral and popular votes in the recent Presidential election:

Electoral Votes.	Popular Votes.
Lincoln, 180	1,46,202
Douglas, 12	1,55,650
Breckenridge, 78	673,782
Bell, 33	530,249
	303 4,666,884

Now compare the popular vote of Douglas with that of Breckinridge. It will be seen that Douglas has a little more than a million and a half of votes, while Breckinridge has but a little over half a million, or say only one-third as many as the former. Now look at the electoral vote of each. Douglas has but twelve, and Breckinridge seventy-eight, or more than six times as many as the former. In effect, half a million of people would rule a million and a half.

It is time that this Electoral vote system was abolished, and the people allowed to vote directly for the nominees, as they now do for Governor and State officers.

## Seat of Government Question.

Political sentiment is beginning to find expression through the press in different parts of the State upon the subject of the removal of the seat of government. In addition to the extracts given recently from the Bath *Sentinel* and Brunswick *Telegraph*, we copy the following. The Hallowell *Advertiser*:

"The Portland papers are already agitating the subject of removing the capital of the State to Portland. The people will hardly consent to submit to so great a sacrifice, even if please the inveterate wire pullers of the 'natural seaport.' The interests of the State, and not of a particular locality, will be of paramount importance in the decision of that vexed question so persistently urged."

The Bath *Advertiser* remarks as follows:

"The Portland papers are already at their work pumping public opinion up to the sticking place, and are laboring to get the Legislature from Augusta to their 'Government House.' The last dodge is to show the profitable uses to be made of the State House to be converted, and the old State House be converted to other purposes, and the Portlanders would then be prepared to bring through their own friends, to ask the State to pay the whole debt incurred for the removal, and it would be done. This is really the case with the 'whole heat of removal!'

The *Morning Journal* says:

"We have always thought unfavorably of the plan of changing the capital from Augusta to Portland. As a city on account of its location and enterprise we think highly of Portland. It gives Maine more prominence among people than any two cities in the State. In our opinion, it would be impossible to form another. The port of Portland is in their favor, it is evident that before half a dozen years expired, the change would involve the State in an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars."

From an article in the *Piscataquis Observer* upon the approaching session of the Legislature, we make the following extract:

"Some have proposed to abandon the city of Augusta and adopt Portland as the Capital of the State. There are many reasons why this should not be done. Augusta is more central, and is a very quiet city. There are no allusions to attacking the Legislature, and the Legislature is more likely to do more faithfully, where there is no inducement to neglect business for pleasure. Again, Portland is reaping many advantages from her position which no other portion of our State can enjoy. She is a highly favored spot. We are contributing to her growth by sea and by land. It is not to be denied that all should be done to make the Legislature comfortable, and numerous in their attempt to strip her less favored position of the poor boast of the annual visit of the Legislature. The laborers of the Hon. Reuel Williams and other distinguished citizens of old Kennebec, are worthy of more consideration from other portions of the State. The removal would injure many and profit few, if any. The Legislature unless it desire to create dissensions ought to give the measure the cold shoulder whenever it is presented."

Col. F. W. Pickens was elected by the Legislature on Saturday last, on the sixteenth ballot, Governor of South Carolina. The vote stood, Pickens 88, Johnson 64, scattering 12. It is understood that Mr. Pickens is a "moderate secessionist."

Wendell Phillips delivered an address in the Boston Music Hall on Sunday morning last, to a crowded audience, on the subject of "mobs and education." The address was received with mingled hisses and applause, and at its close, so violent were the demonstrations of the mob, that the police in full force were obliged to escort the speaker to his home.

PETITION FOR A RAILROAD FROM BANGOR TO PISCATAQUIS COUNTY. The Dover *Observer* publishes a petition to the Legislature from Chas. E. Kimball and others, for a railroad charter from some point in Bangor or Oldtown, to Brownville, with the right to construct branches to the Katahdin Iron Works, to Moosehead Lake, and up the valley of the Piscataquis to Dover and Foxcroft.

The Bath *Times* says that the efforts being put forth to secure a daily line of steamers from that city to Boston, to run in connection with the Androscoggin and the Ken. and Port. Railroads, have made the enterprise look promising and feasible to capitalists and steamboat parties in other cities.

It is reported that Attorney General Black will be appointed Secretary of State, and that Edwin Stanton, of Pa., will take the post of Attorney General.

THE FIRE IN CALAIS. A fire occurred in Calais on the 9th inst., destroying the store of Messrs. Belmont & Young with its contents, and the dwelling house of James S. Pike, Esq., (unoccupied in his absence,) also a large lot of lumber belonging to Messrs. Belmont & Young. The loss of the former was \$7,000, insured for \$2,500. Mr. Pike's furniture was saved, and there was \$100 insurance on the house.

## Electoral Vote and Popular Vote.

This Committee on the State of the Union organized on Tuesday last, the members from Florida and South Carolina declining to appear. Mr. Houston of Alabama, urged prompt action, freely expressing an opinion that the committee might adopt a report which would restore the Union feeling in the South, and thus avert secession.

In order to understand something of the reasons why our fathers established what is called the electoral vote and the direct vote of the people, or "popular vote" as it is called.

On Thursday, Mr. Dunn of Indiana, offered a resolution that the existing discontent and growing hostility of the Southern people to the Federal Government were greatly to be regretted, and whether, without just cause or not, any reasonable and proper constitutional remedies that may be necessary to preserve the peace and prosperity of the Union should be promptly and cheerfully granted.

Amendments were severally offered by Messrs. Merrill of Vt., and Perry of Ct., and rejected.

Mr. Rust's resolution was then adopted 22 to 8.

Mr. Davis of N.Y., declined to vote. Messrs. Bayley and Pawkins absent. Nays—Messrs. Adams, Ferry, Humphrey, Robinson, Tappan, Morris, Morse and Washburn.

On Saturday, Mr. Corwin reported a series of resolutions, which it is said will meet the approval of a majority of the Republicans of the Committee. The first pledges the faith of Congress against any attempt to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The second is against Congress interfering with the inter-slave trade between the slave states. The fourth is in favor of any amendments rendering the fugitive slave act effective and satisfactory to the South. The fifth is against any discrimination by Congress against slave States asking for admission into the Union. The sixth is in favor of protecting persons and property in the Territories until they shall have 30,000 inhabitants, when non-intervention shall therefore be abandoned; because they are not only wholly useless as our Presidential elections are now conducted, but because they do not always represent the true vote of the people; and instances may occur, and some actually have occurred, where a man who has the least number of votes of the people may nevertheless become the President of the United States.

It is thought the Committee will be able to report by the middle of the week.

## Kennebec Union of the Sons of Temperance.

The first regular meeting of this Association occurred at Hallowell on Tuesday 11th inst. Delegates were present from nine Divisions. C. W. Coffin of Sidney Division, was appointed temporary Chairman.

The Committee appointed at a preliminary meeting for the purpose of preparing a constitution, presented a report which was adopted.

The objects of the Union, as set forth in the preamble, are to strengthen subordinate divisions, promote acquaintance among members from different localities, extend aid to weak Divisions and more effectually reach the mass outside of the order by public meetings and the circulation of temperance documents.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year:

President—Chas. W. Coffin of Sidney Division.

Vice Presidents—Eli Jones of Lake Div., and Thos. Hawley of Hallowell Div.

Secretary and Treasurer—Chas. A. Smiley of Candia Div.

Chaplain—Rev. A. Felch of Hallowell Div.

Surgeon—Stephen Barton of Winsor Div.

Executive Committee—D. B. Randall of Warren Div., J. H. Greevey of Branch Mills Div., R. D. Smiley of Bethesda Div., L. T. Boothby of Ticonic Div., Wm. Jacobs of Lake Div.

Various matters of interest to the order were discussed, among which was the following resolution, which was adopted after an animated discussion:

Resolved, That experience has full demonstrated the inexpediency of *slipping* towns to establish

the project of stationing one of the engines of the city somewhere in that vicinity. We understand that the people of that portion of Ward 3, some time since volunteered to form a company to work the old "Deluge," and the Danvers proprietors offered

to give the land for an engine house, if the city would consent to have her stationed on Sand Hill. If this had been done, the fire in this case might have been extinguished in a few minutes after its discovery and the District spared a serious loss of property.

## An Earthquake.

A very decided shock of an earthquake, was felt in this city, on Sunday morning last about half past eleven o'clock. As we should judge, it was nearly equal in violence and duration to that which occurred throughout the northern and middle States in November last, the vibrations being felt from east to west, and sensibly shaking buildings, and rattling the crockery upon the shelves. We presume the direction of the earthquake was also the same as before, nearly north and south.

The recent frequent occurrence of these phenomena naturally suggests inquiry into their cause.

Various conjectures are ventured upon the subject, the most frequent if not the most philosophical of which is, that they are the premonitory throes of the political and social disruption which now impending over the country. Have we not the highest authority for believing that nature sympathizes with man when any momentous event, affecting the interests and destinies of humanity is about to take place.

## A Free Bridge.

While our people have been talking and negotiating in regard to a free bridge across the Kennebec, Mr. John Frost, a well-known and skillful bridge-builder of Maine, has been quietly at work with his forces in constructing a temporary structure—the free use of which with commendable and characteristic public-spiritedness he has freely given to our citizens and all others who may choose to avail themselves of it. It is expected to stand after maturity the interest shall cease at the expiration of sixty days' notice of readiness to redeem them. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue notes for the payment of public creditors or others choosing to receive them at par. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to issue notes at such rates of interest as may be offered by the lowest responsible bidders, no fraction to be received less than 6 per cent. The notes are transferable, and to be received in payment of duties, taxes, public lands, and all debts due at such times as the notes may be offered.

The note of the Bank of Portland, for January, 1861, is evidence that before half a dozen years expired, the change would involve the State in an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars."

The *Bath Times* remarks as follows:

"The Portland papers are already at their work pumping public opinion up to the sticking place, and are laboring to get the Legislature from Augusta to their 'Government House.'

The *Morning Journal* says:

"We have always thought unfavorably of the plan of changing the capital from Augusta to Portland. As a city on account of its location and enterprise we think highly of Portland. It gives Maine more prominence among people than any two cities in the State. In our opinion, it would be impossible to form another. The port of Portland is in their favor, it is evident that before half a dozen years expired, the change would involve the State in an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars."

The existence of this ill feeling and prejudice, as exhibited by all men in both sections, and its existence is by all good men deplored.

Our first object should be to divest ourselves of, whether we belong to one section or another, and when that is done, there will remain but little to do to bring back peace and prosperity to the country. Then, "asking nothing but what is right, and submitting to nothing wrong," every section would find its prosperity enhanced by that of every other, and all find their greatest good in a common government and an undivided country.

CATTLE RUSTLING AT LARGE. We find in a recent number of the Bangor *Whig* the form of a petition to the Legislature which is now in circulation, for the repeal of the 4th section of chapter 23 of the Revised Statutes, authorizing Towns to permit cattle to go at large. The petition sets forth the reasons for such repeal, with much clearness and force follows.

It is stated that this affirmative action by Towns under said section, is in violation of the constitution of this State and the rights of its citizens.

Said section being unconstitutional, its tendency is, to mislead and deceive interested parties, inducing owners of land and cattle to believe that towns have the right to call in their cattle to the meetings of the commissioners (subject to a fine of \$100.) to fence the same without compensation, and to feed the stock growing therein.

This supposed obligation upon owners and occupants of land used for cultivation, to fence on road lines, has already occasioned a useless outlay of millions of dollars in this State, and prevents the cultivation of much fertile soil now lying waste.

And, for fear of such drifts made so common in this State, during the winter and spring months, occasioning delay, annoyance and damage to travelers, and enormous expense to towns, in opening and rendering said roads passable.

The practice of cattle running at large, suggested by this section of the statute, and accompanied by the community, though contrary to law and equity, is found to be fruitless in the case of contentions, ill feelings and vexatious suits, not only to the proprietors of the highway pastures, but also to the owners of cattle more than they are compensated by the precarious and practical living thus afforded their stock, and no community can claim to be a well regulated, law-abiding people, when they are compelled to bear the burden of such a regulation.

THE RESIGNATION OF GEN. CASS. On Saturday last we were informed by telegraph that on Thursday last there was an exciting discussion in the Cabinet on Major Anderson's demand for reinforcements at Fort Moultrie, Charleston. The demand was refused. Secretary Cass, spoke warmly in favor of granting the demand, and finding himself at variance with the President, resigned his post as Secretary of State. It is stated by the Washington *Constitution* of Saturday that on the question of coercing a State to remain in the Union by military force, the President and Gen. Cass were perfectly united. The difficulty arose from the fact that Mr. Cass insisted upon the immediate sending of reinforcements to the forts in Charleston harbor, while the President was of opinion that there was no necessity for such a measure in order to secure the forts against an attack.

It is reported that Attorney General Black will be appointed Secretary of State, and that Edwin Stanton, of Pa., will take the post of Attorney General.

THE TRI-WEEKLY. Col. F. W. Pickens was elected by the Legislature on Saturday last, on the sixteenth ballot, Governor of South Carolina. The vote stood,

Pickens 88, Johnson 64, scattering 12. It is understood that Mr. Pickens is a "moderate secessionist."

The *Advertiser* in Calais on the 9th inst.,

destroyed the store of Messrs. Belmont & Young with its contents, and the dwelling house of James S. Pike, Esq., (unoccupied in his absence,) also a large lot of lumber belonging to Messrs. Belmont & Young. The loss of the former was \$7,000, insured for \$2,500.

Mr. Pike's furniture was saved, and there was \$100 insurance on the house.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY. Mr. Thomas, of Maryland, Commissioner of Patents, has been appointed Secretary of the Treasury in place of Mr. Cobb, resigned. He has already entered upon the duties of his office.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

## Poetry.

### THE OLD BASS VIOL.

Have you never heard of good Father Tisus,  
Who schooled so soundly and preached so plain,  
And fought the devil with might and main?  
Small hire he got, yet he always thrives,  
For he taught the poor to sing and preach for love.  
Noble and bold were the words which rung  
In council and kirk from his godly tongue,  
And noble and bold were the words which rung.  
Love and hate had the warrior's grave been made,  
But I prize the altar at which he prayed,  
And the old bass viol whereon he played.  
It is leavening how my study does,  
And it is leavening all the more,  
That it lightens the burden of the score.

I love to think that far or near,  
Though sense be lost to the pulses of time,  
There's music in the soul can hear.

I love to think that earth or heaven,  
Though the tempest with melody never can mate,  
Sings shrill of song in the soul may wait.

It is maffay away in the breast alone,  
But mayhap, to the heart under,  
Till the soul's own voice can sing no more.

But many, awake on earlier wings,  
Will answer in music to all sweet things,  
And copy their joy in earthly strings.

And he is in his chair, the viol's chime,  
And worshipped the Lord, in psalter rhyme.

So summer and winter came and went,  
With the sun and moon to tell the kindly blend  
Of the man and his chosen instrument:

Then when the soul of the saint acomes,  
His track the soul of the viol chose,  
And the music pulse in his bosom frost.

All stricken, and pale, and bent away,  
Till a gaudy angel comes to say,

They sing the poor, dumb prophet by.

There, long, in the curves of its shattered shell,  
The spider folded her sonken to his mate, "All's well."

And many a summer the earth-wasp came,  
With wings that quivered and flashed like flame,  
And glued next to the nuptial frame.

But for a change he had slumbered yet,  
With his wife, who was a pretty, fiery nest,

And the by-singe drowsed from the spider's nest.

I heard where the old iron warden lay,  
And casting him forth from his nook one day,

I heard his last, "I'm dead."

I buried his faded form, and wrung  
His writhed joints till the old grow young.

And his grand-doubtful nerves I newly strong.

Then I heaved him many a shifty look,

And spied his secret, "I'm dead."

And thusly back came his dead soul.

By the window I sit when the day-breaks wane,  
And he leans on my breast, and sings his strain;

And I know, by the bunting calm,  
The saint is leaning with harp and psalm,

And joining his old-time viol-psalm.

### Our Story-Teller.

### THE OLD LADY'S STORY.

I have never told you my secret, my dear neices. However, this Christmas, which may well be the last to an old woman, I will tell the whole story; for though it is a strange story, and a sad one, it is true; and what sin there was in it I trust I have not expiated by my tears and my penitence.

It is the last expiation of all is this painful confession.

We were very young at the time, Lucy and I, and the neighbors said we were pretty. So we were, I believe, though entirely different; for Lucy was quiet, and fair, and was full of life and spirits; I was the elder by two years; but more to me the leading-strings of society were so quiet, and so wise, that she needed no one's guidance; for if advice was to be given, it was she who gave it, not I; and I never knew her judgment or perception fail. She was the darling of the house. My mother had died soon after Lucy was born. A picture in the dining-room, her in a spot of all the trimmings of dress, was exactly like Lucy; and, as Lucy was now seventeen, and my mother had been only eighteen when it was taken, there was no discrepancy of years.

One Allhallow's eve a party of us—all young girls, not one of twenty years of age—were trying our fortunes round the drawing-room fire; throwing nuts into the bright blaze, to hear if they would crack; and, to amuse the party, a proportion, or pouring hot lead into water, to find cradles and rings, or purses and coffins; or breaking whites of eggs into tumblers half full of water, and then drawing up the picture into pictures of the future—the prettiest experiment of them all. I remember Lucy could make a figure-ground picture of hers, like a marble medallion. The foreign servants, too, in Eastern dresses, covered with rings, and necklaces, and earrings; the forest smells of sandal-wood, and camphor, and musk; the curtains that hung everywhere in place of doors, some of velvet, and some of cloth of gold; the air of luxury, and all the pomp of impression on me, that I felt as if carried away to some unknown region. As I prayed to him, pity, not to force this on me, and knelt in the shadows of the autumn sunset to ask him for clemency.

He did yield this day, not the next, nor the day he was coming to reside there. And, true enough, one day the whole of our little town of Thornhill was in a state of excitement: for a traveling-carrige and four, followed by another of full-servants—Hindos, or Lascars, or Negros; dark-colored, strange-looking people—passed through and Mr. Felix took possession of the East.

My father called on him after a time; and, as the mistress of the house, went with him. Green Howe had been changed, as if by magic, and we both said so together, as we entered the iron gates that led up the broad walk. The ruined garden was one mass of plants fresh and green; of them there was a new to me; and the master, who had been weeping, and knew it was for me—I, who once would have given my life to save him, now lay him down.

The place had had a bad name ever since, and no one would live there. However, it was a thing of shame and repentance, and promised better things to come.

At last Felix told me that I must come with him; that I must leave home, and take part in his life; that I belonged to him and to him only, and that I could not break the tablet of a fate ordained; that I was his destiny, and he mine, and that I must fulfill the law which the star had written in the sky. I fought against this, I fought with all my strength, and I fought with all my might, and dimmed them so that I could scarcely see their beauty. It drowned my father's voice; and his words fell confused and indistinct.

Not long after, a stranger came into our neighborhood, a stranger by the riverside, where no one had lived for many years; not since the young bride Mrs. Brighthwaite, had been found in the river one morning, entangled among the dark weeds and dripping alders, strangled and drowned, and her dead head—none knew how—by the chapel door. The place had had a bad name ever since, and no one would live there. However, it was a thing of shame and repentance, and promised better things to come.

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